

Western Arkansas Workforce Development Board

River Park Events Building

121 River Front Dr, Fort Smith, AR

September 17, 2019

1:00 PM

Minutes

Call to Order: Chair Cathy Nesbit called the meeting to order.

Attendance: Board members in attendance Greg Aleshire, Dana Byrum, Nanci Caillouet, John Craig, Miles Crawford, Shari Dominquez, Debbie Faubus-Kendrick, Doug Kinslow, Michael Lejong, Rachel Mize, Martha Moore, Stacy Muntz, Cathy Nesbit, Bruce Sikes, Dwayne Young,

Others Present: Tim Ongan (proxy for Erick Wiggins), Kathleen Dorn, Charlotte Wiles, BJ Peel, Sasha Grist, Ashley Garris, Tom Bonkofsky, Carman Hensley, Vanessa Caldwell, Tom Pittman, Karen Phillips, Dennis Williamson

Approval of June 11, 2019 Meeting Minutes: Chair Nesbit asked for any corrections on the previous meeting minutes that were distributed via email. Erick submitted a correction that he 2nd the motion to adjourn. There were no other corrections offered. Cathy stated if there are no further corrections, the minutes were approved with the stated correction.

Committee Reports:

- One Stop Committee:
Nanci stated that ADWS was in the process of finalizing the IFA, but at this time no completion date was provided. Dennis will follow up and report back. She gave a report on the status of the One-Stop operator procurement informing the board each bid was invalidated. The committee will be putting the RFP back out for bid. It is the committee's recommendation the request for proposals for a one-stop operator go back out for bid. Nanci stated by the direction of the committee, I move the adoption of the report and recommendation as stated. Cathy asked for discussion and there was none. She asked for a vote and all were in favor.

Open Items:

- Bylaw change recommendation Cathy stated the bylaws were sent out to all board members prior to the meeting. Cathy asked for a motion to accept the bylaws as changed. Nanci made a motion to accept the bylaws as submitted and Stacy 2nd the motion. Cathy asked for discussion and there was none. She asked for a vote and the motion passed with all in favor of accepting the bylaws as submitted. Cathy did state that Erick Wiggins submitted his vote via email in favor of accepting the changed to the bylaws as received. Cathy asked all board members to sign the acknowledgement page of the bylaws after Dennis reiterated the importance that this board must be represented by individuals who have authority to make decisions or hire within the company or agency they work for. When you send a proxy, the form has changed. It is important to note that the individual sent as proxy must also have authority to make optimum policy decisions or hiring authority within your organization.
- FEMA Clean-Up Grant Dennis told the board we applied for a disaster grant due to the flood. We were awarded that grant. However, the grant came with some costs we were not aware of. The CEOs asked to meet to discuss the grant and decide tomorrow whether the district will use these funds or not. The discussion is over cost beyond the term of the grant from UI claims that would not be covered for non-workforce staff at the district. We are supposed to get the amount asked, but due to the lapse in time from the

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storm to now many municipalities have already addressed those issues and the assistance asked for now is very low. No motion was asked for but a number of board members were against moving forward with the disaster grant.

- Cathy informed the board that Cass Job Corp will remain open.

New Business:

- Title I Grant Updates:

Dennis shared the current performance numbers for the region and state with the board. He stated Western was doing relatively well but was continuing to work on Adult 2nd quarter employment and wage rates. The team is working to be within 90% of the negotiate rates. We are working with apprenticeships and employer outreach to provide career pathways toward better wages on in-demand occupations. We work with all our partners to assist people to a better wage. We have added 122 apprentices in this year and expect to add at least another 30.

- One-Stop operations update:

We are seeing a significant increase in clients at the One-Stop center with fulltime staff there. Dennis presented a list of workshops from all partners are coming up and invited board members to attend these events. Some events that missed the list were Fort Smith Adult Ed hiring event on October 12th from 10am to noon, WAPDD is working with Scott County Judge to meet with in-school and out-of-school youth in Waldron. On September 12th Carman (WAPDD) met with 200 enthusiastic high school students at Waldron High School. Adult Education centers throughout the region will have open house on September 19th. November 12th from 5-9pm is the National Apprenticeship dinner with the IBEW local 700.

- Disability Committee:

Dana said she was looking for a couple members for the committee and that a meeting was planned for October 10th.

Cathy Nesbit asked if there was any other business. She stated since there was no further business the meeting was adjourned.



Cathy Nesbit, Chair

12/3/17

Date